



Tilton-Northfield Fire & EMS



www.tnfd.org

Week of 5/7/2010

Phone: 286-4781

Vision

SAFETY

PROFESSIONALISM

**CUSTOMER
SERVICE**

Mission

DELIVER:

EFFICIENT,

PROFESSIONAL,

HIGH QUALITY,

COST EFFECTIVE,

AND TIMELY

**FIRE
SUPPRESSION,**

RESCUE,

**EMERGENCY
MEDICAL
SERVICES,**

FIRE PREVENTION,

**PUBLIC SAFETY
EDUCATION, AND**

**CODE
ENFORCEMENT.**

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History

Have you given much thought to the fact that you make history every day? Think about what we keep track of and how... Every single thing we do is written down or entered into a computer. It is historically recorded as soon as it happens.

Through the process of laying out a Strategic Plan for the department, I became much more aware of our history. A section in the Plan will be dedicated to the same. Two trips to the Hall Memorial Library and a glance through some old albums produced much of the reference material, but so did our files and our incident reports.

Don't ever take your record keeping for granted. Be sure to be clear and descriptive so that others can easily interpret what you are describing. It may be the most tedious task we have, but it also might be the most important.

Now, some of what I found is not that important at all. However, it is all very interesting. See page 6 for a small sample of what I have been able to dig up!



Chief's Message

Change in the Air

As I begin to write, once again—Long Overdue—the wind is blowing like crazy. It is beautiful out, but a front is coming through. The air is changing. But it always does, doesn't it? Except for the occasional heat wave or cold snap, the air is always changing.

The same can be said for the fire service. If any member of our department ever said that "nothing ever changes around here," I would be the first one to tell them that they don't know what they are talking about. It might be their perception that the things that are most important to them are not changing (possibly not at the speed they want them to, or possibly way too fast for them!) but change is here.

Politically, we are being forced to change. The economy, alone, is influencing how we do business and how we all look at our own situations, never mind those of the citizens that are most negatively impacted. Money is tight, raises were minimal, the State is trying to make up revenue shortfalls by turfing-off increases to municipalities. It is all around us. We are changing the way we operate to be more efficient in terms of what it costs to provide fire and EMS services. That is where it gets a little

dicey. What level of service do the people of the District want?

If you remember, it wasn't too long ago that we were talking about splitting the District. What I took from that, obviously, is that there is a faction of the public we serve that feels that they can get by with a volunteer fire department, three full-time people (total), and significantly less equipment.

Even though that didn't pass, it exists. As fire chief, I don't agree with that way of thinking. Sometimes, this argument manifests itself in discussions of how expensive it is to provide coverage, specifically overtime, and what the value of full-time personnel is. Commissioners and townspeople have asked if there are ways to reduce overtime? They have asked if we can use per-diem and/or call firefighters to fill shifts? I am always there to say that it would be a reduction in the level of service being provided if you did that. And, I know, full-well that this statement has and will be used against me to say that I am driving a wedge in between the full-time and the call force; that I am anti-call firefighter; etc. I spoke about this last night at the department meeting and I will repeat it, now: **WE NEED YOU—CALL FIREFIGHTERS—WE NEED YOU!**

I could go on and on about what constitutes the change in level of service. But, simply think about the level of service, now, normally. There are three, on-duty, full-time, cross-trained firefighter/EMTs (minimally) working 24 hours/day, 365 days/year. These firefighters are intimately familiar with all aspects of the department, its policies and procedures, the community and its buildings, and train virtually every day they are on duty, and sometimes when they are off duty. For many of them, their part time jobs are in the fire and/or EMS fields.

For arguments sake, what happens when 3 of them are committed to a call? Does the level of service drop on the next call? I think we all must admit that it does. Those 3 guys have been on 1,000 calls in the past year, alone! And that is just one small argument.

We have great call firefighters that I would not hesitate putting into any situation. Our officers, especially, have a great deal of experience and are well trained. I hope you all know what I'm saying. The invitation is always open if you don't! **WE NEED YOU!** None of us can do it alone!

Chief Carrier

PS: 3 new call FFs on roster!

UPCOMING TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Reminder: We have switched our fire training nights to Wednesday. The 1st and 3rd Wednesdays are fire training nights. The 2nd Monday is Officer's meeting/training night and the 4th Monday is EMS training night. This is a 6 month trial period.

May 10, 2010	0900	Ladder Raises Chief Carrier Center Street
May 10, 2010	1730	Training Committee Chief Carrier Center Street
May 10, 2010	1800	Officer's Training Chief Carrier Center Street
May 11, 2010	0900	Ladder Raises Chief Carrier Center Street
May 12, 2010	0900	Ladder Raises Chief Carrier Center Street
May 17, 2010	0900	Size Up to Extinguishment Chief Carrier Center Street
May 18, 2010	0900	Size Up to Extinguishment Chief Carrier Center Street
May 19, 2010	0900	Size Up to Extinguishment Chief Carrier Center Street

COMMISSIONERS CORNER:

This column will mark the beginning of what I hope will prove to be a monthly column. I have been a Commissioner, with the exception of two years, since 1986. I have seen many changes in the department. I have seen it through much of it's growth. Many things have changed, but one thing that has not is the need for "Communication". I speak of "Communication" between all levels within the department as well as the District. The Commissioners are ultimately responsible for setting and administering policy as well as administering the District's budget. Administering the District's budget has always come easy to me. I would suspect it is probably because of my accounting background. In the area of setting and administrating policy, I feel we have done well, but we might have done better had we asked for input from you, the employee, before we set certain policies in place. In the area of "Communication", I feel that I have failed the District as well as those who serve it; however, I aim to change that.

The Commission is in the process of setting "Goals and Objectives" for the year 2010, and "Communication" is at the top of the list. The Commissioner's; I as one of them; have always been viewed to some extent as unapproachable. This perception was and is more real than perceived. That needs to stop. I as one member of the board intend to do what I can to open the relationship between the Commissioners, the people that serve the District, and the partners in the District - the towns of Tilton and Northfield.

We need to communicate and not mandate without proper input from the District and from the people who serve it. The District is at a major crossroad. The District has just survived the near separation of the two parties in the District. The people have spoken loudly in favor of the District remaining in tact. The District has also spoken loudly about doing what we can with what we have and making a case for those things that we need or personnel that we need. This case should not be made only in the eleventh hour during the budgetary process or at District meeting. We need to communicate our needs to the District through a continuing dialogue. We need to share with the District who we are and what we do, both as individuals and as a department.

The TNFD's web-site is one way for us to accomplish this...the site should be one of our greatest communication devices. It has laid dormant for years, but all that is about to change. The framework for the revised site has been accomplished through the volunteer efforts of Tim Pearson, the finance director for Tilton. Captain Brad Ober' the Chief, Administrative Assistant Kathy Tobin, and others have been working tirelessly on gathering data for the site. I am excited about the prospects of this tool and we are on schedule for June 1, 2010 for the site to be live and interactive.

We the Commissioners want to hear from you. Feel free to call me at anytime (cell 832 3376) or stop me when you see me. We now have restructured our meeting agenda and have reserved the beginning of our meeting to hear from you as well as members of our District.

I encourage you all to come to a monthly meeting and participate in any discussion we might have, or that you might want to have.

Be safe:
Tom Gallant

Pacemakers and Other Implants Can Be Hacked

Source: PCWorld Magazine May 2010

Researchers at the University of Washington have demonstrated that medical implants that rely on wireless technologies for monitoring the devices and adjusting their settings are not secure.

In lab tests, scientists from UW, the University of Massachusetts Amherst, and Harvard Medical School were able to take control of a cardiac defibrillator and use it to induce ventricular fibrillation, a potentially lethal condition. They could also read sensitive medical information stored on the device and change it at will.

Study coauthor Tadayoshi Kohno, assistant professor at the University of Washington, says that similar techniques theoretically could be applied to other wireless medical devices, such as drug dispensers and neuro-stimulators. “In the future [medical devices will] be much more like full-grown computers,” says Kohno. “We did this study to raise awareness and increase our understanding of the security risks these devices could pose.”

the fix = At present no fix exists, though the FDA and medical-device manufacturers are aware of the problem. There are no known cases of medical devices being hacked. Even Kohno downplays the danger. “The risk to patients today is low,” says Kohno. “These are amazing life-saving devices, and I would have no qualms about using one.”

Though tech makers have cut back on harmful chemicals, some gear still may have brominated flame retardants, which studies have linked to lower IQs in children and reduced fertility rates. BFRs “can be converted to highly toxic brominated dioxins and furans if the products are burned at the end of life,” says Arlene Blum, executive director of the Green Science Policy Institute and a visiting professor of chemistry at UC Berkeley. Even daily use can be dangerous. “When used in plastic casings, BFRs can also migrate out of the plastic into the dust in the room and then enter the body via hand-to-mouth contact.”

the fix = Certain pre-2009 products – especially devices that generate a lot of heat, like laptops and laser printers – may still contain BFRs, says Michael Kirschner, associate director of the Green Science Policy Institute. “Do some research,” says Kirschner. “Almost all vendors now have an environmental section on their Websites that tells you about the materials they use.”



History Snippets—Strategic Plan Draft

The Tilton Fire Department provided services during that time, as photos of firefighters with horse-drawn equipment stand outside the then “Church Street Station” with its sign “Tilton Fire Department”. There are also photos of a horse-drawn ladder company of that period with “Tilton Fire Department” on its side. It is recorded that in 1911, the department owned two horse-drawn wagons. It is believed that with the hiring of Chief Herbert Dolley, the Tilton and Northfield Fire Department was formed. In 1912, the land was purchased from the Town of Tilton to construct a fire house on “Church Street”, as was a small fire truck. In 1924, records indicate that the “Tilton Fire District” was the government entity of the fire department. In 1925, Engine 1 bore the lettering “Tilton” over “FD” over “Northfield” on the front fender as it was parked in front of the station next to the “Rescue” hand tub. The station was added onto in 1926, and again in 1944. At some point in time later, the department became known as the Tilton Fire District and functioned as such until 1945, when it was referred to as “Tilton and Northfield Fire District”. For part of that time, they also performed the duties of the former street light precinct. In 1946, it was recorded as it is known today: “Tilton-Northfield Fire District”.

On September 13, 1943, Willis Craik was named Fire Chief; Simeon Walker, Fireward; and, Wendell Crowell, Deputy Chief. On October 13, 1943, Willis Craik and Wendell Crowell resigned and Roy Jordan accepted the Chief’s duties.

On March 20, 1916, a woman on the Franklin Road burned to death when a hot ember from the stove ignited her dress. She ran from the house and was found in burning grass. The house burned flat.

The Thompson block at the corner of Main and Park Streets burned in 1919.

A building at 27 Park Street was destroyed by fire on June 24, 1943. Another fire earlier in the year destroyed the Edmunds residence; also on Park Street.

On March 19, 1944, the Golden Rule Farm, on the site of today’s Spaulding Youth Center, suffered a \$50,000 loss. Firefighters were on the scene for at least 9 hours. Six days later, on the 25th of March, firefighters laid 2000’ of hose to battle a fire at the Ideal Hotel on Main Street.

On February 14, 1945, a fire that started in the cellar extended into the partitions of the Legion Hall. Later that year, on April 11th, the Edward Gibson Woolen Mill suffered \$100,000 of fire damage. In fact, the major fire of the year was the Carter Mill on Park Street. It was a total loss. The mill was owned by Gibson Woolen Mills, Inc. Assistance was received from Franklin, Laconia, and Winnisquam. Also, there was a fire at the Presby Block which destroyed the full second floor and did considerable smoke and water damage to the several stores on the main floor.

The fall of 1947 brought along some of the worst forest fire conditions ever to be recorded. Over 200 fires were fought in the communities. This was the year that fires burnt from the Ossipee’s to the coast of Maine.

Emery Thibodeau’s Stucco block on Main Street burned in 1948. The fire started in the plant of the Tilton Cleaners and soon spread over the entire building. It was a \$20,000 loss.

In 1949, the property of Mr Tilton on Clark Road burned on December 27 and was a total loss worth \$10,000

To Be Continued!!!!